Comparisons of other U.S. Patent Documents

This section will compare my repairable plastic pallet with other inventors who have already obtained a U.S. Patent for their pallet. My invention "a repairable plastic pallet" appeared to have some similarities between seven other inventors according to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. Below I will describe/ compare a difference and/or differences between six other individuals vs. my invention "a repairable plastic pallet".

1) Changize Sadr-US 5,417,167– This pallet requires a screw or screws to fasten a deck board onto a stringer. Also the use of clamps or lugs are used within the pallet, and a tool (which will damage the board) is required for disassembling the pallet.

2) David A. Schrage-US 5,365,859– This pallet uses plastic nails or heat stake to fasten slats to rails. By using plastic nails in this pallet can reduce or eliminate press fit or heat stake procedures.

3) Isle Belle -US 5,456,189–This is a collapsible pallet that uses a ultrasonically welded cup and/or other conventional securing means.

4) Michael Stolzman-US 5,458,069–This pallet uses a tool for rotating and engaging the nut with a threaded post. The posts are ultrasonically welded to the cross members.

5) Morris Herring-US 5,941,179–Describes a pallet that uses blocks and mentions the need to press fit the board onto the runner.

6) Robert Morgan IV-US 5,440,998– Uses the following fastening methods on his pallet: The employment of a mechanical screw in spike /stud, uses a drive rivet to cap the spike after board mounting, and hot upset of the integral spikes/studs. Also, a supplemental adhesive applied at flat surface adjacent to spike/stud is recommended for safety precautions. Pallet must be sent

back for repairs.

My "repairable plastic pallet" is different in several aspect as compared to the previous mentioned patents. The board mounting process on my pallet uses a molded on locking device for securing a board in place, unlike the above mentioned patents, theses pallets use (s) other means of board fastening. The runner/rail pegs are designed to rest into the board, eliminating the need for additional means of securing. Finally, my pallet can be assembled/disassembled and repaired on site.

Dear Mr. Jose V. Chen

Enclosed you will find my response to the Office Action Summary pertaining to my patent pending status claim for a repairable plastic pallet. The entire patent application has been modified in more detail for better understanding. Per our phone conversation, you mentioned that no additional information can be submitted, but I could add to the paperwork that would help present the idea in a clearer manner. I did submit Fig.2A which is the same as fig.2, except that in fig.2A the mounted on locking device is shown, which coincides with board/slat fig.5. (This mounted on locking device is not shown in fig.2). If this figure (2A) cannot be submitted, then I can only mention the "mounted on locking device" throughout the paper using fig.2 as an example.

I have pointed out the differences between my invention "a repairable plastic pallet" and the other inventors mentioned in the above paragraph. I researched this material by using the attached sheet (mailed with the Office Action Summary) of inventors and their patent numbers. Also, I have described how to assemble and disassemble the repairable plastic pallet, which is located under the section: **Description of Preferred Embodiments**.

Sincerely

Larry T. Williams, Jr.

704-848-4396 (6:00am-5:00pm) M-F